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Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Department of Human Services



Kenneth Freidenberg
Director

December 24, 2009

NEWINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES THANKS COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT OF HOLIDAY FOOD TOY AND GIFT PROGRAM

Dear Town Residents and Organizations:

The Newington Department of Human Services thanks all of the volunteers, civic organizations, religious groups, schools, businesses, and individual residents for their energetic and generous support for the Holiday Food, Toy and Gift Program. The holiday programs help households consisting of families, children, single adults, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. All of these households' are experiencing financial hardship due to issues such as chronic illness, sudden unemployment, fixed or reduced income.

This year we experienced an unprecedented 28% increase with a total of 398 households representing 913 Newington residents as recipients for the holiday programs. There were 70 homebound elderly, who had their food baskets delivered by volunteers. All food baskets were distributed in November. Over 280 turkeys, hams and thousands of non-perishable food items were collected and donated by many organizations and individuals. In December, there were over 2100 toys and gifts donated for the Holiday Toy and Gift program serving 337 children and 576 adults and seniors. Numerous contributions by organizations and individuals were made to the Holiday Food, Toy and Gift Program, and for ongoing operation of the Food Bank, Special Needs Fund and Emergency Energy Assistance.

This year was an amazing one for the holiday programs. The response from the community was overwhelming with many unsolicited donations! The most important aspect of this program is the volunteer participation of individuals from civic, religious, schools, town departments, business groups and the community at large. Our list of contributors is endless with financial contributions, food collections, donations of gifts and toys and groups contributing by sponsoring households. There were over 80 individual volunteers who helped staff pick up food donations, deliver to homebound residents, move food from one location to another in town hall, re-stock the food bank and separate gifts and toys for household recipients.

The Department of Human Services is very grateful to the community for its whole-hearted support and generosity. While we are unable to list all of the volunteers and contributors, we want to express our sincere appreciation to all of the organizations and individuals who helped to make this year brighter for those Newington residents in need.

Sincerely,

Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services

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